

CHAPTER XXIII

THE PROGRESSIVE CONVENTION AND CAMPAIGN- SHOOTING OF ROOSEVELT

IMMEDIATELY following the completion of the roll-call, which resulted in the nomination of Taft, the Eoosevelt delegates and alternates left the convention and accompanied by a great throng of people went to another hall in the city, which was filled to overflowing as soon as the doors were opened. A convention was organized and resolutions were adopted nominating Eoosevelt as the candidate of the Progressive party for the presidency. A committee of notification, representing the strongest Eepublican States, twenty-two in number, was appointed to apprise him of the nomination. "When he appeared in the hall a scene of the wildest enthusiasm followed. All witnesses of this scene describe it as something quite without precedent in convention history, being more like the beginning of a religious crusade than the founding of a political party. Eoosevelt made a brief speech, in which he said:

"I think the time has come when not only men who believe in Progressive principles, but all men who believe in those elementary maxims of public and private morality which must underlie every form of successful free government, should join in our movement. I, therefore, ask you to go to your several homes to find out the sentiment of the people at home and then again come together, I suggest by mass convention, to nominate for the presidency a Progressive on a Progressive platform that will enable us to appeal to Northerner and Southerner, Easterner and

Westerner, Ee-
publican and Democrat alike, in the name of
our common
American citizenship. If you wish me to make
the fight, I
will make it, even if only one State should
support me.